

from Florida (Ms. BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), as cofounder of a new Republican effort dedicated to bringing the disinfectant of sunshine into the shadowy corners of the wasteful Washington bureaucracy. We call ourselves the "Washington Waste Watchers."

Do not be confused, the Washington Waste Watchers are not about counting calories. It is about counting the myriad of ways that the Federal bureaucracy routinely wastes the hard-earned money of the American family. We are here to look after the family budget by checking the growth of the Federal budget.

Madam Speaker, I am sure all of my colleagues are well aware of the size of our Federal deficit. It is large and getting larger every day; and, to compound the challenge, we are presently faced with a supplemental appropriation request of \$87 billion to help fight the war on terror. I believe, after much debate and due diligence, that this body will pass most, if not all, of that request. I, for one, agree that it is far better to fight this war over there, as opposed to over here. And although I have concerns about portions of the request, I fundamentally believe that helping rebuild the infrastructure and the civil society of Iraq is just as important in winning this war as are additional combat troops and munitions.

So, faced with unparalleled homeland security needs and a growing budget deficit, what are we to do?

Democrats say the only way to cut the deficit is to yet again raise the taxes on the American family. Sound familiar? It is the same refrain we have heard from them for years.

We do have a large budget deficit, but it is not because the American people are undertaxed. It is because Washington spends too much.

Since I was born, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget; seven times. This is unconscionable. And putting aside the war on terror, the Democrats, who claim to be concerned about budget deficits, have voted to spend almost \$1 trillion more than our budget allows; \$1 trillion more. There is a spending problem in Washington, not a taxing problem. Much of the spending in Washington is pure waste, fraud, and abuse; and by attacking it every day, we can begin to close this deficit.

For a moment, let us talk about the waste of duplication.

There are more than 90 programs across 11 different agencies to support the early development of children. For example, there are 9 Federal agencies and 69 different programs to educate and care for children under the age of 5. There are 29 different programs offering early education for children within the Department of HHS, itself having 4 separate programs to educate those from low-income families. And Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

The Federal Government operates 342 different economic development programs; 342. And, by the way, what does the Federal Government know about economic development anyway?

There are 86 different programs in 9 Federal agencies to assist teachers in improving their teaching skills. This is on top of the thousands that already exist at the State level. Also, if we already have a Department of Education, why do we need teaching programs spread over 9 different agencies? Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this.

Madam Speaker, 12 different Federal agencies are responsible for food safety. For example, the Department of Agriculture inspects meat pizzas, while vegetarian pizzas are under the purview of the Department of Health and Human Services. Only in Washington, D.C., could this absurd result happen.

The Federal Government operates at least 70 programs dedicated to helping the disabled. About half of these duplicate programs cost taxpayers close to \$110 billion annually. That is a quarter of the cost of the 10-year prescription drug bill for our seniors. And Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Madam Speaker, these are just a few of the examples of rampant duplication and waste throughout our Federal Government. After we begin to look closely, it is easy to see that many Federal programs routinely lose 10, 20, 30 percent of their taxpayer-funded budgets to waste, fraud, and abuse, and they have for years.

In the real world, when people lose that much money, they are either fired or they go to jail. But in Washington, it is only an excuse to ask for even more money from the American family next year.

There are many ways we can cut the deficit without cutting any needed services, because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money Washington spends, it is how Washington spends the money.

QUESTIONING OUR PATRIOTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, over the past week there has been a lot of talk in the chambers of Congress about what it means to be patriotic. The Republican leadership would have

us believe that patriotism is asking no questions and voicing no concerns. According to them, patriotism is simply handing over \$87 billion tied with a bright red bow and a card attached to it that says, here is the money you asked for. Go ahead and spend it how you want.

Madam Speaker, this is not patriotic. This would be neglecting our constitutional duty to oversee how taxpayers' dollars are spent, and it is an obligation that I think we need to take very seriously when considering this supplemental bill. We need to take it seriously not only for the taxpayers but also, more importantly, for our soldiers.

There is not a person in this chamber who would vote against supporting our troops. They are serving bravely and honorably in a faraway land for far longer than anyone expected, and our prayers are with them and their families. Our troops are the true patriots, and the patriotism I see in this debate is demonstrated by those demanding the best for those troops.

Unfortunately, the war plan may have failed to adequately protect our troops. Details may have been overlooked.

Members of Congress returning from Iraq talk about the lack of Kevlar inserts and the need for heavier armor for Humvees. The \$87 billion supplemental includes these items. But why were these items not in the \$79 billion Congress provided the administration last spring? Kevlar inserts cost \$517, \$517 for a life-saving device. I ask my colleagues, why was there not enough money for each soldier to have a Kevlar insert? Did we not foresee our soldiers being shot at? Unfortunately, my question is not one that will be answered, or as the chief of the U.S. Central Command said last week, "I can't answer for the record why we started this war with protective vests that were in short supply."

Madam Speaker, there is no answer, or at least no answer that could satisfy this Member of Congress. Where was the money to armor up our military vehicles? The Department of Defense thinks we only need \$177 million to do it now. Again, why was this not done with the \$79 billion appropriated last April? Why was the money not provided to protect our soldiers in these vehicles from gunshots and shrapnel from these roadside bombs?

So, I say to my Republican friends, you will have to excuse us if we insist on exercising our constitutional duty, one that I happen to believe is our patriotic duty, to ensure that we get our priorities straight and protect our young men and women in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

In examining patriotism and priorities, I cannot help but wonder if singlehandedly rebuilding Iraq while our country remains in economic downturn is the most patriotic use of this \$20 billion in proposed reconstruction funding. I see part of this funding going towards a children's hospital in Iraq

when right now I have 177,000 Texas children who have been dropped from the CHIPS program and they are crowding our emergency rooms because they have no health insurance. I want to help children in Iraq, but should we not be also addressing the problems here at home?

I see this funding going toward building roads and bridges in Iraq when this Congress cannot pass a highway spending bill because we simply do not have enough money to fix our own roads and bridges here at home. This administration has misplaced priorities that come at the expense of the American people.

In the name of free trade, we pushed our manufacturing companies and workers offshore. Our manufacturing sector is struggling to survive, and our economy has lost 3.2 million jobs over the last 3 years. For the second straight year now, more Americans are finding themselves in poverty. Our country has turned into a land of executives and service sector employees, creating an ever-widening gulf between the rich and poor that is extinguishing what is left of our middle class in America.

This administration's fiscal policies have come at the expense of the American people.

Oh, we will hear that we can have it all. They will tell us we can fight a war, rebuild a country, cut taxes, save Social Security, and provide our seniors with a prescription drug benefit which is less than half of what they really need. But what they do not tell us is that we cannot pay for it. We are going to incur the largest deficit in this Nation's history, and our children and grandchildren will be paying off the national debt for generations to come.

Tough decisions must be made to get this country back on track, and it takes courage and leadership to make the right decisions for our soldiers, for the American people, and for this country.

Putting the American people first. Now, that is what patriotism is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FEENEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3146. An act to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program, and certain tax and trade programs, and for other purposes.

□ 2000

CELEBRATING FT. RILEY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Ft. Riley. For decades this military installation has played an important role in protecting our Nation and is now an essential component in the war on terror.

Founded in 1853, Ft. Riley was established as a strategic post for settlers heading west. It was located between the Oregon and Santa Fe trails to provide protection for traveler. Ft. Riley was responsible for protecting the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad through that area, and the post used troops to police the new territory because of fighting between pro- and anti-slavery settlers. During the Civil War, confederate prisoners were housed at Ft. Riley.

From the post's inception until the end of World War II, Ft. Riley was known for its cavalry units and was designated as the "Cavalry Headquarters of the Army." It was also during that time that the famed "Buffalo Soldiers," the all-African-American Cavalry units were stationed at Ft. Riley. The Cavalry School produced some of the finest mounted horsemen in the world.

However, it was also during World War I and II that the Nation began to see military warfare transition from cavalry to mechanized machinery. The invention of the tank, the machine gun, and the use of aviation shifted the focus of the military away from the horse and rider, towards mechanized warfare.

At the end of World War II the Army closed the Cavalry School, replacing it with the Ground General School. This school trained enlisted men in intelligence gathering techniques and newly commissioned officers in basic military subjects.

During the Cold War, the Army recognized Ft. Riley's strategic resources and designated it as the home base for the First Infantry Division, the "Big Red One." The security threat from the Soviet Union, the expansion of communism transformed the mission of Ft. Riley. No longer would Ft. Riley be only a training and education center, but became the home base for a major infantry division. In 1955, the Big Red One began arriving at Ft. Riley. The addition of the Big Red One caused an influx of troops and families to the area, especially in the neighboring community of Junction City, Kansas.

Through the Vietnam and Gulf War, Ft. Riley continued to actively support U.S. military missions abroad and continued to acquire land to train troops stationed at the installation. Today Ft. Riley consists of more than 100,000

acres. This allows troops to train in war-like conditions using live ammunition to prepare for situations such as those in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia.

The resilient prairie grasses are a perfect terrain for military maneuvers. In addition, the construction of a simulated combat center at the post brings the art of war from Kansas' prairie into the classroom. Soldiers are able to train in simulated Bradley fighting vehicles and Abrahms tanks to hone their combat skills.

Today Ft. Riley continues to play an important role in the war on terror. In the past 6 months more than 14,000 soldiers and 1,750 rail cars, containing over 5,500 pieces of equipment, have been deployed from Ft. Riley, representing 35 trains that have shipped equipment to ports in Charleston, South Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, Beaumont and Corpus Christi, Texas, and Savannah Georgia.

Strategically located in the center of the country, Ft. Riley's soldiers can load 200 railcars in a 9-hour period, with the equipment arriving at the ports ahead of schedule. Ft. Riley has been able to transport equipment from Kansas to the coast faster than the Navy could get ships to those ports. Not once has Ft. Riley missed a port call. During Operation Desert Storm, it took 28 days to get equipment to the ports in the Gulf of Mexico. Now during the War on Terrorism, equipment was moved to the Gulf from Ft. Riley in 48 hours.

Madam Speaker, this Saturday the community of Junction City and Ft. Riley will celebrate the post's 150th anniversary. As the United States continues to fight the War on Terror, I ask my colleagues and my fellow Americans to join me in recognizing the contributions and sacrifices soldiers from Ft. Riley have made to protect this Nation and defend our way of life. Ft. Riley has evolved during the past 150 years from a post to assist westward expansion to become "America's Warfighting Center."

Ft. Riley is essential to Kansas, it is essential to the Army, and, most importantly, Madam Speaker, Ft. Riley is essential to the safety and security of the United States of America.

Happy 150th anniversary, Ft. Riley, Kansas. Thank you for your service to our Nation.

THE UNINSURED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, according to new numbers released by the Census Bureau today, the number of uninsured Americans in 2002 rose to 43.6 million. This is a 5.7 percent increase in the number of Americans without health insurance, the single largest increase in a decade.

Moreover, these numbers exemplify President Bush and the Republican